Ms. Lura B. Irish
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04 January 2000

Jane Henney, M.D. Commissioner Food and Drug Administration 5600 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1471 Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

Continuing evidence suggests that it would be very much in the health interests of humans, if the widespread use of antibiotics were banned for use in animals as growth enhancements.

This extensive use in the raising of animals for food has been linked to antibiotic resistant diseases, which presents the problem of untreatable infectious diseases.

The European Union has already banned the use of antibiotics used for animal growth, which are also used for human treatments.

It seems imperative to me that the United States should follow suit before we have exhausted the usefulness of antibiotics in this country, by such indiscriminate use.

It would be a good idea, too, if doctors were counseled not to prescribe antibiotics indiscriminately, as is often the case.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lura B. Irish

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Jane Henney, M. D. Food and Drug Administration 5600 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1471 Rockville, Maryland 20857